

Reasons For Having School Resource Officers in MGSD

School Safety - The number one priority in all schools is safety and protection of students and staff. That is the number one reason that SROs are in the schools. Mass killings of students and staff has proliferated across the U.S. since 1999. A trained law enforcement professional in the school can prevent or lessen the impact of these killings. U.S. DOJ COPS Program has detailed 51 cases where school violence was prevented by SROs. These are but a fraction of the actual cases investigated by and prevented by SROs throughout the U.S.

Do SROs promote a School to Prison Pipeline? - These findings suggest that SROs, although they are exposed to more student criminal and misconduct situations than are patrol officers, arrest students at equal rates as patrol officers. The evidence in this study also suggest that when SROs do arrest students, they tended to downgrade the severity of the charges against the student to disorderly conduct rather than an assault or felony charge. This study suggested that most SROs act no differently than other officers when it comes to felony crimes. It also suggested that SROs are more lenient than are patrol officers when encountering misdemeanor and status offenses. Compared to patrol officers, SROs spent more time on non-crime service related activities, such as giving advice, medical assistance, community relations activities, and traffic direction. There have been very few social scientific studies about SROs, but the studies that have been conducted so far do not indicate that the presence of SROs creates a “school to prison pipeline” in which children are saddled with criminal records for behaviors that previously would only have resulted in minor in-school discipline. SROs generally appear to be more lenient than are patrol officers when dealing with minor student criminal behavior and conduct problems. But there seems to be no difference between SROs and patrol officers when dealing with serious felony crimes.

SROs Criminalize Student Behavior? - No empirical research evidence was found to suggest widespread actions by SROs in the U.S. to criminalize the minor behaviors of students in general, or minority students in particular. The general pattern is that SROs make arrests under the same circumstances that would cause a principal to call the police if an SRO were not already present. Furthermore, SROs create the opportunity for school-aged children to have nonconfrontational, non-enforcement contacts with law enforcement officers. that may contribute to more positive opinions of the police later in life. Finally, the known presence of an SRO on campus may enhance the safety of our children, as the mass shootings at grade schools in the U.S. to date have not occurred at schools with an SRO presence. The research to date does not support the “school to prison pipeline” theory, and further research may well support the widespread belief held by principals that the use of SROs tends to have a positive impact on schools and students. (Dolan Consulting Group)

Prevented Tragedies - Canady points to [NASRO's own research report](#), compiled in the wake of criticism of SROs, to defend his position that carefully selected and properly trained SROs are extremely effective at gathering intelligence and preventing violent crime. Canady notes that the SRO in Parkland, Florida, did not receive training from their association. However, in the aftermath of that massacre, multiple SROs prevented major attacks but did not receive the same publicity. At its annual conference in 2018, NASRO recognized two such officers, [James Long of Florida](#), and [Blaine Gaskill of Maryland](#).

DOJ and DPI strongly suggest that local education agencies (LEAs) and law enforcement articulate the roles and responsibilities of school resource officers and their respective organizations through MOUs.

The DPI along with DOJ and the critical stakeholders developed a [model framework to use to develop a MOU](#).

SRO's Other Roles - Beyond law enforcement, SROs also serve as educators, emergency managers, and informal counselors.

MGSD Request for SRO - Monona Grove School District asked us to provide a SRO 3 years ago. What changed?

School Staff Supports SRO Program – School staff at Glacial Drumlin and Monona Grove High School strongly support SRO program as expressed to the MG School Board this summer. They gave many examples of positive effects of SROs in the schools.

Positive Impact - Glacial Drumlin SRO has had a very positive impact on all students to include minority, female, students from troubled homes, handicapped and many others that would never have happened if she wasn't in the school. This applies to many off duty and out of school contacts with students and parents that were developed because the SRO was in the schools.

Successful Investigations/Less Victims - Numerous investigations conducted successfully because of Glacial Drumlin SRO familiarity with students and their trust of her. Crimes that would have gone unreported or unsolved, thereby victimizing other students, have been properly investigated and brought to successful conclusions.

Parent Survey - Ask the parents in Cottage Grove what they think.